would like to know whether it will come under the purview of the Tourism Department, whether some development will be made there. There is not even a tourist Bungalow there. It is only durig the period of our leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu that there was some development. He built the ruined city. I would like to know whether any importance will be given to this place. The Minister was telling us that it was the look-out of the State Government to develop tourism. You know pretty well that the Tamil Nadu Government are not making any development of the State but they are making personal developments. All those who are in the Government ....*(Interrouptions).* So, will the Central Government take care of the interest of tourism there and do the needful?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please leave two minutes for him to answer. .....*(Interrouptions).*

SMT. SUKHBANS KAUR: Madam, I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member for the particular palce. But I would appreciate more if he would just go through the plans for tourism for in the state.

To emphasise" my point we have given seven additional international flights to Madras. There has been an increase of over 40 per cent in the influx of foreign tourists into Madras Airport. We have given Rs. 2.00 crores in 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95. Each year it is around Rs. 2.00 crores. I do not have the exact figures because your query does not relate to the main question, but we have given a lot of attention to Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Government is also playing an active role in promoting tourism. And as far as the brochures are concerned, I wish you would go to some tourist office and look at what we have there. We have films, we have brochures on Tamil Nadu and on many of your religious places and one if. The Sunny's South which includes Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka. We have a brochure on the and .....*{Interrouptions).*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: But not on Poompuhar.

SHRIMATI SUKHBANS KAUR: I would also like to inform the Member that it is a State subject. The State Government has to give us proposals, and I can assure you that whatever projects the State Government has brought, we have always given money for those projects. In no way is Tamil Nadu lagging behind. In fact it is doing very well.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

Written answer to questions

Customs duty paid by Modiluft and Archana Airways

*123. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHAN SINH MONGROLA:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what the total number of aircrafts imported by Modiluft and Archana airways during the last three years;

(b) what is the total custom duty paid on each aircraft by each airlines; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a case of evasion of customs duty by these airlines and if so, what steps are being taken to recover the outstanding customs duties from these ATOs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) Ms. Modiiuft have imported four aircrafts and M/s. Archana Airways have imported five aircrafts during the last three years.

(b) The imports by both the airlines have been made without payment of duties as at the relevant time of their import, aircrafts were exempt from levy of customs duties.

(c) No case of evasion of customs duty has been made against these airlines, and hence no further action is required.

Illegal imports in connivance of Customs Officials

*124. SHRI VISHNU KANT SHASTRI:
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that customs officials at Bangalore allowed large scale illegal imports in connivance with customs agents causing loss of revenue to Government running into crores of rupees;

(b) what are the steps Government have taken to contain such illegal import activities;

(c) what is the amount of revenue loss Government incurred during the past three years on this account; and

(d) whether the Government have fixed responsibility on customs official; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) to (d) It has has been brought to the notice of the Government that there have been some irregularities in the Bangalore Custom House in clearing certain items whose import is restricted or require licence under the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962. The Government is reviewing these cases for appropriate action under the law.

The Government has got a strong organisation under the directorate General of Revenue Intelligence in addition to officers under the Preventive Customs formations located in strategic points of the country to gather intelligence on such activities of illegal irregular imports, including violations detected under the law are proceeded by appropriate authorities. Government revenue sought to be evaded by such irregular/illegal imports and clearances are always recovered through appropriate procedures under the law.

In the case of imports at Bangalore where irregularities have been detected, the duty, redemption fine and penalty have been collected.

Investigation is under progress to fix the responsibility of the officials concerned.

Loans to Reliance Industries by foreign Bank

*126. DR. RANBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reliance Industries Limited has concluded Rupees 473 crore loan with Consortium of Banks led by the
Union Bank of Switzerland without any guarantee; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) Approval has been granted to Ms. Reliance Industries Ltd., to raise foreign currency loan of USD 150 million (approximately Rs. 473 crores) to be arranged by a consortium of banks, namely, Ms. ABN Amro Bank, N.V., BA Asia Ltd. and Union Bank of Switzerland, without any guarantee, for financing the import of capital goods.

(b) This loan has an interest rate of 6-months LIBOR (London Interbank Offered Rate) plus 1% per annum and repayable in full at the end of 7 years from the date of draw down. The current LIBOR is 5.9% per annum.